**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A spool filled with two or more elongated steel elements wound in parallel and in several windings upon said spool, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the distance between two neighboring elongated steel elements, as measured along a line parallel to the axis of the spool, is not more than 10 mm along 90% of the length of each elongated steel element.

2. (Original) A spool according to claim 1 wherein said distance is smaller than 5 mm.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) A spool according to claim 1 [[3]] wherein said steel elements are steel wires.

5. (Currently amended) A spool according to claim 1 [[3]] wherein said steel elements are steel cords.

6. (Original) A spool according to claim 5 wherein one of said steel cords comprises steel filaments, a majority of which being twisted in a first twist direction, and wherein another of said steel cords comprises steel filaments, a majority of which being twisted in a second twist direction, said second twist direction being opposite to said first twist direction.

7. (Currently amended) A method of minimizing sags when unwinding multiple elongated steel elements from one single spool, said method comprising the following steps :

a) providing a spool;

b) winding multiple elongated steel elements in parallel and in several windings upon said spool so that ~~that~~ the distance between two neighboring elongated steel elements, as measured along a line parallel to the axis of the spool, is not more than 10 mm along 90% of the length of each elongated steel element.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 7 wherein said method further comprises the following step :

- guiding the multiple elongated steel elements on a common pulley upstream of the spool.

9. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 8 wherein said method further comprises the following step :

- keeping the multiple elongated steel elements separate from each other upstream of said common pulley.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein said common pulley has a flat groove.

11. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 10 wherein said flat groove has a width being greater than the sum of the diameters of the multiple elongated steel elements.

12. (New) A method according to claim 7, wherein said steel elements are steel cords;

wherein one of said steel cords comprises steel filaments, a majority of which being twisted in a first twist direction, and wherein another of said steel cords comprises steel filaments, a majority of which being twisted in a second twist direction, said second twist direction being opposite to said first twist direction.

13. (New) A spool according to claim 1, wherein said distance is smaller than 8 mm.

14. (New) A spool according to claim 1, wherein the steel elements are wound on the spool so that a difference in tension between the steel elements is minimized.

15. (New) A spool according to claim 1, wherein the steel elements are wound on the spool so that sagging of the steel elements is minimized when the steel elements are unwound from the spool.